

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1156

By Cobb J

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Jim Harrison on his induction into the Greater Chattanooga Sports Hall of Fame.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly pause to specially recognize those Tennessee athletes and coaches who, through their magnificent exploits, have brought honor and distinction to this State; and

WHEREAS, one such estimable individual is Jim Harrison, who was recently honored with induction into the Greater Chattanooga Sports Hall of Fame at its forty-fifth annual banquet; and

WHEREAS, one of the most accomplished and renowned coaches in Tennessee high school athletics, Mr. Harrison served with the utmost integrity and character as a coach in Rhea County and Hamilton County for over thirty years, earning the respect of his peers, colleagues, and players for his exceptional ability and expertise; and

WHEREAS, while pursuing his college degree at Tennessee Technological University (TTU), he excelled in athletics, lettering in both football and baseball; and

WHEREAS, his education was put on hold for several years while he valiantly and honorably served in the United States Marine Corps during World War II; and

WHEREAS, after his heroic military service, he again enrolled as a student at TTU; and

WHEREAS, while serving as captain of the 1949 TTU Golden Eagles baseball team, he led the team to the school's first ever Ohio Valley Conference championship in baseball; and

WHEREAS, after receiving his degree from TTU in education, Mr. Harrison continued to play baseball for several years, serving as the talented and stalwart catcher for the Crossville Blues Tennessee Championship semi-pro team; and

WHEREAS, while playing semi-pro baseball, Jim Harrison led the Tennessee, Georgia, and Alabama baseball league in hitting for three years with a batting average of .400; and

WHEREAS, he also devoted his time and energies to reviving baseball for American Legion Post 100; and

WHEREAS, in 1956, Mr. Harrison began his illustrious high school coaching career, serving with distinction as the head football coach, boys' basketball coach, and the girls' basketball coach at Rhea Central High School until 1961; and

WHEREAS, joining the staff at Soddy Daisy High School as the assistant football coach, and later as the head baseball coach, Coach Harrison obtained legendary status when his 1977 Trojan team won the Class AAA state baseball championship; and

WHEREAS, now retired from coaching, his indelible legacy of integrity and hard work continues to offer inspiration not only to his former players and colleagues, but all those who are fortunate enough to know him; and

WHEREAS, one of the most respected and esteemed figures in high school competition, Coach Harrison possessed coaching skills and abilities which garnered him the admiration of sports fans and purists throughout the State of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, he demonstrated a remarkable ability to motivate his players to reach their fullest potential and he exemplified the unquestionable character and stalwart determination that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to awards and accolades, Mr. Harrison has been recognized and honored with induction into the Tennessee Technological University Sports Hall of Fame in 1992; and

WHEREAS, his many accomplishments aside, Jim Harrison is most appreciative of the love and support of his wife, Jean, and his entire family; and

WHEREAS, Jim Harrison serves as an example of vitality and dedication to the people of Tennessee, and he should be duly recognized for the boundless energy and remarkable talent he brings to all his chosen endeavors, athletic and otherwise; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE

CONCURRING, that we join with the family, friends, colleagues, former teammates, and former players of Jim Harrison in congratulating him upon his induction into the Greater Chattanooga Sports Hall of Fame, commend him for his substantial legacy as an athlete and coach, and offer our deep appreciation for the dedication that he has shown our State.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.